

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 21B-70 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-70)

7 Sec. 21B-70. Illinois Teaching Excellence Program.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Poverty or low-performing school" means a school in  
10 academic early warning status or academic watch status or a  
11 school in which 50% or more of its students are eligible for  
12 free or reduced-price school lunches.

13 "Qualified educator" means a teacher or school counselor  
14 currently employed in a school district who is in the process  
15 of obtaining certification through the National Board for  
16 Professional Teaching Standards or who has completed  
17 certification and holds a current Professional Educator  
18 License with a National Board for Professional Teaching  
19 Standards designation or a retired teacher or school counselor  
20 who holds a Professional Educator License with a National Board  
21 for Professional Teaching Standards designation.

22 (b) Beginning on July 1, 2011, any funds appropriated for  
23 the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program must be used to

1 provide monetary assistance and incentives for qualified  
2 educators who are employed by school districts and who have or  
3 are in the process of obtaining licensure through the National  
4 Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The goal of the  
5 program is to improve instruction and student performance.

6 The State Board of Education shall allocate an amount as  
7 annually appropriated by the General Assembly for the Illinois  
8 Teaching Excellence Program for (i) application fees for each  
9 qualified educator seeking to complete certification through  
10 the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, to be  
11 paid directly to the National Board for Professional Teaching  
12 Standards, and (ii) incentives for each qualified educator to  
13 be distributed to the respective school district. The school  
14 district shall distribute this payment to each eligible teacher  
15 or school counselor as a single payment.

16 The State Board of Education's annual budget must set out  
17 by separate line item the appropriation for the program. Unless  
18 otherwise provided by appropriation, qualified educators are  
19 eligible for monetary assistance and incentives ~~based on the~~  
20 ~~priorities~~ outlined in subsection (c) of this Section.

21 (c) When there are adequate funds available, ~~priorities~~  
22 ~~(1), (2), (3), (4), and (5), as outlined in this subsection~~  
23 ~~(c), must be funded. If full funding to meet all priorities as~~  
24 ~~outlined in this subsection (c) is not available, funding must~~  
25 ~~be distributed in the order of the priorities listed in this~~  
26 ~~subsection (c). If funding is insufficient to fund a priority~~

1 ~~in full, then funding for that priority must be prorated and no~~  
2 ~~further priorities shall be funded. Priorities for monetary~~  
3 assistance and incentives shall include the following ~~be as~~  
4 ~~follows:~~

5 (1) ~~Priority 1:~~ A maximum of \$2,000 towards the  
6 application fee for up to 750 teachers or school counselors  
7 in a poverty or low-performing school who apply on a  
8 first-come, first-serve basis for National Board  
9 certification.

10 (2) ~~Priority 2:~~ A maximum of \$2,000 towards the  
11 application fee for up to 250 teachers or school counselors  
12 in a school other than a poverty or low-performing school  
13 who apply on a first-come, first-serve basis for National  
14 Board certification. However, if there were fewer than 750  
15 individuals supported in item priority (1) of this  
16 subsection (c), then the number supported in this item  
17 ~~priority (2)~~ may be increased as such that the combination  
18 of item priority (1) of this subsection (c) and this item  
19 ~~priority (2)~~ shall equal 1,000 applicants.

20 (3) A maximum of \$1,000 towards the National Board for  
21 Professional Teaching Standards' renewal application fee.  
22 ~~Priority 3: The fee for the National Board for Professional~~  
23 ~~Teaching Standards' Take One! (the test for National Board~~  
24 ~~certification) for up to 500 qualified educators who apply~~  
25 ~~on a first-come, first-serve basis.~~

26 (4) (Blank). ~~Priority 4: An annual incentive equal to~~

1 ~~\$1,500, which shall be paid to each qualified educator who~~  
2 ~~holds both a National Board for Professional Teaching~~  
3 ~~Standards designation and a current corresponding~~  
4 ~~certificate issued by the National Board for Professional~~  
5 ~~Teaching Standards, who is employed in a school district,~~  
6 ~~and who agrees, in writing, to provide 30 hours of~~  
7 ~~mentoring or National Board for Professional Teaching~~  
8 ~~Standards professional development or both during the~~  
9 ~~school year to teachers or school counselors in a poverty~~  
10 ~~or low performing school, as applicable.~~

11 (5) ~~Priority 5:~~ An annual incentive equal to \$1,500,  
12 which shall be paid to each qualified educator currently  
13 employed in a school district who holds both a National  
14 Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation and  
15 a current corresponding certificate issued by the National  
16 Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who agrees,  
17 in writing, to provide at least 30 hours of mentoring or  
18 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards  
19 professional development or both during the school year to  
20 classroom teachers or school counselors, as applicable.  
21 Funds must be dispersed on a first-come, first-serve basis,  
22 with priority given to poverty or low-performing schools.  
23 Mentoring ~~for all priorities~~ shall include, either singly  
24 or in combination, ~~mentoring of~~ the following:

25 (A) National Board for Professional Teaching  
26 Standards certification candidates.

1 (B) National Board for Professional Teaching  
2 Standards re-take candidates.

3 (C) National Board for Professional Teaching  
4 Standards renewal candidates.

5 (D) (Blank). ~~National Board for Professional~~  
6 ~~Teaching Standards Take One! participants.~~

7 Funds may also be used for instructional leadership  
8 training for qualified educators interested in supporting  
9 implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards or teaching  
10 and learning priorities of the State Board of Education or  
11 both.

12 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
14 2014.